

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: ASSAM TRIBUNE EDITORIAL ON FOREIGN MISSIONARY
ACTIVITIES IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY MADRAS DEC 10TH
RPTD TO YOU.

QUOTE:

CALCUTTA 2631

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJ: ASSAM TRIBUNE EDITORIAL ON FOREIGN MISSIONARY
ACTIVITIES IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH.

1. FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE LEAD EDITORIAL IN
THE DEC 6 ASSAM TRIBUNE (GAUHATI DAILY, CIRCULATION 25,000)
ENTITLED, "ANTI-INDIAN CAMPAIGN".

2. QUOTE: " IT IS ON RECORD THAT THE ENTIRE NORTH-EASTERN
REGION, TO BE PRECISE THE UNDIVIDED ASSAM INCLUDING THE ERST-
WHILE EXCLUDED AND PARTICULARLY EXCLUDED AREAS, WAS A FERTILE
PLACE WHERE VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF FOREIGN MISSIONARIES CARRIED
ON UNHINDERED THEIR WORK OF PROSELYTIZATION IN PRE-INDEPEN-
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DENCE DAYS. THESE MISSIONARIES, SPECIALLY THOSE OF AMERICA AND

BRITAIN, WHO ACTED AS THE HANDMAID OF BRITISH RULE IN INDIA, HAD PREVENTED THE UNSOPHISTICATED TRIBAL PEOPLE FROM JOINING THE MAINSTREAM OF INDIAN SOCIETY. IN FACT, A FEELING OF UN-INDIANESS WAS ROUSED AMONG THE UNSOPHISTICATED TRIBALS, THOUGH IT IS ADMITTED THAT THESE MISSIONARIES HAD DONE A GOOD DEAL OF HUMANITARIAN WORK AMONG THE PEOPLE BY SPREADING EDUCATION AND HEALTH FACILITIES. NEVERTHELESS, BASICALLY THE MISSIONARIES WERE NOT FREE FROM THE CHARGE THAT THROUGH THEIR PROSELYTIZATION WORK THEY HAD ALIENATED A LARGE CHUNK OF THE TRIBAL FOLK FROM THE NATION. THE GOINGS-ON IN NAGALAND AND MIZORAM SO FAR AS THE DEMAND FOR SECESSION BY THE EXTREMIST SECTION IS CONCERNED ARE EVIDENCES OF HOW THE PROSELYTIZATION WORK OF THE FOREIGN MISSIONARIES HAD GRIPPED THE PEOPLE. HAPPILY, THE NORTH-EASTERN FRONTIER AGENCY (NEFA) SINCE NAMED AS ARUNACHAL PRADESH WAS BY AND LARGE FREE FROM THE INFLUENCE OF THESE MISSIONARIES. THE CONCERN RECENTLY EXPRESSED BY THE ARUNACHAL PRADESH COUNCIL WHICH REPRESENTS THE PEOPLE SHOWS THAT CERTAIN AGENCIES ARE AT WORK TO CONVERT THE TRIBALS IN ARUNACHAL INTO CHRISTIANITY. THE COUNCIL'S CONCERN IS QUOTE TIMELY AND NEEDS TO BE HEEDDED BY NEW DELHI. HOWEVER, THERE IS NOW A HUE AND CRY NOT ONLY IN A SECTION OF THE CHRISTIAN POPULACE OF INDIA BUT ALSO IN SOME OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES ABOUT THE ARUNACHAL PRADESH COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION ON THE SUBJECT. THE BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE OF WASHINGTON DC WHICH CLAIMS TO BE THE PROTECTOR OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY HAS STARTED A VIRULENT TYPE OF ANTI-INDIAN CAMPAIGN ALLEGING THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE YOUTH OF ARUNACHAL HAVE BEEN HARASSING THE CHRISTIAN PEOPLE IN VARIOUS WAYS CONTRARY TO THE SECULAR NATURE INDIAN CONSTITUTION. ANOTHER ORGANIZATION STYLED AS THE NORTH EASTERN INDIA CHRISTIAN COUNCIL HAS MADE SIMILAR WILD CHARGES AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE ARUNACHAL PRADESH ADMINISTRATION AS PUBLISHED IN AN AMERICAN NEWSPAPER, LOS ANGELES TIMES OF NOVEMBER 9, 1974. THIS ANTI-INDIAN CAMPAIGN IS OF SERIOUS NATURE AND WE HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WILL TAKE UP THIS MATTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF USA THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. MEANWHILE, STRICT VIGILANCE HAS TO BE EXERCISED BY THE AUTHORITIES IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH AGAINST THE SURREPTITIOUS ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN MISSIONARIES WHO MAY HAVE ENTERED THE AREA UNDER UNSPECIFIED PRETEXTS. ROSSELOT

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